

Diversion of 0.0765 ha. Reserve Forest land under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Sanvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s. Bharti Airtel Ltd., Pune for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable along the Road in RoW of NH-66 from Panvel to Pen Road in Raigad District in the State of Maharashtra.

Mantralaya, Mumbai-400 032

Reference:

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, MS, Nagpur Letter
No. Desk-17/ Nodal/S1/PID-449721/Thane/2769/23-24, Dt.26.12.2023

M/s Bharti Airtel Ltd, Pune has submitted a proposal for diversion of 0.0765 ha. Reserve Forest land under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Sanvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable along the Road in RoW of NH-66 from Panvel to Pen Road in Raigad District to the State Forest Department. APCCF & Nodal Officer has submitted this proposal to Government of Maharashtra vide letter under referred above.

In exercise of powers under general approval given by MoEF&CC, Govt. of India vide Handbook of Handbook of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Sanvardhan) Rules, 2023) Guidelines-2023 Chapter 4 (para-4.2), Government of Maharashtra is pleased to grant '**In-principle**' approval to the diversion of 0.0765 ha. Forest land under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Sanvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable along the Road in RoW of NH-66 from Panvel to Pen Road in Raigad District in the State of Maharashtra.

2. The details of Forest Land proposed for diversion are as under:-

Sr. No.	Item	Name of the Village	Taluka	District	Survey No.	Length x Width (in mtr.)	Area (in ha.)	Status
9	Laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable along the road in RoW of NH-66 from Panvel to Pen Road in Raigad District.	Kalhe	Panvel	Raigad	157	1700 X 0.45	0.0765	RF
	Total Forest Area involved in the Project (in ha.)						0.0765	

3. This 'In-principle' approval is issued subject to the following conditions-

- 1) The legal status of the land shall remain unchanged.
- 2) User Agency shall obtained Wildlife Clearance, before the commencement of work.
- 3) User Agency shall submit the copy of the permission letter for laying underground OFC duct and cable within ROW of existing road issued by NHAI, Pen-Raigad to the Project Proponent.
- 4) User Agency shall defray the cost of plantation (including ten years maintenance) of 100 trees shall be levied from the User Agency towards Compensatory Afforestation. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species along with 10% RET species of Raigad District shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided. Details of land proposed for Plantation (Record of Rights & KML File), shall be submitted before Stage-II/Final approval.
- 5) Net Present Value:-
 - a) The Forest Department shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) for the 0.6620 ha. Forest land to be diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 30/10/2002, 01/08/2003, 28/03/2008, 24/04/2008 and 09/05/2008 in IA No.566 in WP (C) No.202/1995 and as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide letters No.5-1/1998-FC (Pt.II), dated 18/09/2003 as well as letter No.5-2/2006-FC, dated 03/10/2006 and 5-3/2007-FC, dated 05/02/2009 & File No.5-3/2011-FC(Vol-I), Dated 06/01/2022 in this regard.
 - b) Additional amount of the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after finalization of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on receipt of the report from the Expert Committee, shall be charged from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect.
- 6) The Optical Fiber Cable Line will be laid within maximum size of the trench of 2 meter depth & 0.45 meter width with cable line under the OFC pipeline.
- 7) If User Agency has not submitted bank guarantee or paid security deposit with concern road authority (NHAI/MSRDC/PWD/ZP), the agency shall submit a bank guarantee at the rate of Rs.50/- per running meter and an undertaking to that effect shall also be submitted. If the agency fails to reclaim the land to the satisfaction of concerned Deputy Conservator of Forests, the cost for reclamation will be covered from the bank guarantee.
- 8) If the cable is going to be laid in the formation width of the road, then additional charges in form of bank guarantee shall be given at the rate of Rs.35/- per running meter. Similarly for reclamation of side drain and for tarred portion, the guarantee will be at the rate of Rs.300/- per meter and Rs.750/- per meter respectively. An undertaking shall be obtained from the User Agency that it has agreed to make good any loss to Forest/ Environment while laying the cable in the forest area and during maintenance of the same in future. For further maintenance of the project, the agency shall obtain permission from the concerned Deputy Conservator of Forests as and when required.
- 9) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than specified in the proposal.
- 10) No felling of trees shall be done during the implementation of project.
- 11) No new forest area beyond the Right of Way of existing road should be broken for laying Optical Fiber Cable.

- 12) The User Agency shall pay the cost of Net Present Value, if required in future.
- 13) Underground Optical Fiber Cable can be laid only outside the confines of the Protected Areas.
- 14) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
- 15) After completion of the project, User Agency will reclaim the area under RoW suitably.
- 16) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of the State Government.
- 17) This sanction is subject to the final clearance by the Department of Information & Technology for the project and concerned road authorities for the project.
- 18) The User Agency shall compensate the private owners of forest land if any, in accordance with the prevalent laws, rules & guidelines.
- 19) The User Agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable.
- 20) All other conditions as may be mandatory under relevant Acts, Rules and Guidelines shall be complied by the User Agency.
- 21) All the conditions stipulated by the Forest Department shall be binding on User Agency.
- 22) The User Agency shall make good of any loss to Forest / Environment.
- 23) In case, the proposed area falls in the RoW of the road passing through National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries, prior permission of the State Board for Wildlife and Chief Wildlife Warden should be obtained as per relevant guidelines in this regard.
- 24) All necessary approvals required for the project as per the prevailing laws of the land would be obtained by the User Agency.
- 25) Any breach of the conditions by the User Agency will be treated as violation of the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

3. This Government Order is available at the Government of Maharashtra's website www.maharashtra.gov.in with reference No 202402161809103119. This Order has been signed digitally.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Maharashtra.

(Ganesh Jadhao)
Under Secretary to the Government of Maharashtra

Copy to:-

1. Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi
2. Deputy Director General of Forest (Central), Integrated Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, Nagpur.
3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Nagpur
4. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, Nagpur
5. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & CEO (Maha-CAMPA), Nagpur

6. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Conservation), Nagpur
7. Collector, Raigad.
8. Chief Executive Officer, Zilha Parishad, Raigad.
9. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife Western Region, Mumbai.
10. Deputy Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Thane.
11. M/s Bharti Airtel Ltd, Pune.
12. Select File-F-10.